'Chicken-Negro' Joke Riled the Lady

Daisy Lampkin Takes Healthy Slap at Congressman-Elect

By EVELYN CUNNINGHAM
(Courier Staff Writer)

PITTSBURGH—Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, Courier vice president, last week told off a Congressman-elect, cleared up the air of a meeting of newspaper people and won respect and support from an interracial audience . . . all because the Congressman-elect told the gathering a joke about a Negro and a chicken.

Occasion was the Pennsylvania - Ohio - Indiana American Newspaper Guild dinner, hosted by the Pittsburgh Newspaper Guild, at Webster Hall. Mrs. Lampkin, representing The Pittsburgh Courier, and two local publishers were guests of honor of the Guild.

The dinner was marked by a warm, cordial spirit until Congressman-elect Harry Davenport of Pittsburgh ended a political tirade with a "Negro-chicken" joke.

DAY WILL COME

Mrs. Lampkin, next speaker, addressed Mr. Davenport: "I hope the day will come when I can go to a banquet and won't have to listen to the same old Negro-chicken joke. And I am sorry we had to listen to this one tonight."

Mr. Davenport blanched amid thunderous applause from a predominately white audience, giving overt approval to Mrs. Lampkin's protest.

Mr. Davenport won the recent election over incumbent McDowell in a heated contest that made much of Congressman McDowell's membership in the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Mrs. Lampkin in her speech cited problems of newspapers that were peculiar to the Negro press. She pointed out that due to the fact that local department stores refuse to advertise in Negro publications these papers necessarily have to exist upon subscription and circulation revenue. She lauded Negro newspapermen and women whose duties and responsibilities extend far beyond covering and writing a story but into crusades.

Full endorsement of Mrs. Lampkin's stand has been voiced by ANG members.

MRS. DAISY E. LAMPKIN

He denounced a statement reported made by Wendell Noble in a broadcast Sunday night. The statement was that All women of America are white, and free born.

"What about our Negro women, Indians and others?" he asked. He said that he has waged a fight for Democratic rights for the Negro since he left Hampton and even though up in age now, has never ceased fighting.

Hospitalized Vets Boycott Minstrels

COLUMBIA, S. C. —(ANP)— Complaining that the show insulted the colored race, veterans of both races confined at Veterans hospital here walked out on a minstrel show here last week.

Negro veterans walked out en masse on the black face show presented by the Woodmen of the World for the "entertainment" of hospitalized vets. Colored ex-GI's told Mrs. Thomasina Scott, director of programs for colored vets, that the Negro was insulted in the show, and the word "nigger" was used several times.

Future programs will be screened by officials, Mrs. Scott said.

Protests Slur In Broadcast

Clarence Wright, 2605 Garrison avenue, member of the old 24th Infantry which was court martialed and dishonorably discharged following a riot in Texas despite the fact that his detachment was in another state at the time, protested what he said was an insult to Negro womanhood.

The Dialect Of The Negro

"Ever'body's talkin' 'bout hebben ain't goin' there. . . .'

Someday, if they can be saved, the originality and music of Negro dialect, the delightful economies of sound and thought, the quaint commonsense are going to be credited not only with charm in linguistic history but with great contribution to what our language becomes at last. This will not happen if present-day Negro leadership can prevent it, however. It would amount tot an admission that Negro and white differ—and that is treason in the silly and expensive philosophy of these leaders.

In their will to have it that white and black are just the same, this leadership is robbing the race of many treasures. The colored man has some priceless and incomparable qualities—and a rich history. Included in the history is the dialect which, although much diluted now still exists. But the recording of it has been included in the Great Taboo against separateness. Mrs. Maude Louise Tipton, an Alabama writer, sent a manuscript containing some Negro dialect to a famous New York publishing house the other day. It was returned with a letter stating that it was "sympathetically written, clearly and colorfully told' but that "we would not print a book with dialect now; you have no idea how many letters we would get about it."

Rightly, Mrs. Tipton protests that, without regard to her own story, such a policy will rob us of "the delightful idioms and rich dialect so worth perpetuating in the American records." Meanwhile, an alleged southern white dialect, originating in Hollywood or New York and like nothing real on land or sea, is perpetuated without concern for anybody's feelings. And there are innumerable stories and books with Irish dialect, Jewish, Italian, New England, Brooklyn. Only in the case of our colored people, with their richest fancies and creations of all, must the fiction be maintained that they all talk like Columbia University graduates.

If it were not so tragic it would be funny. As funny as the apochryphal story Fred Taylor told the other day to the effect it was not permitted in the office of PM to refer to the little wood creatures that get under your skin and bite so itchingly as "chiggers." The rule was that they must be spoken of as "chegroes."

Speculation on what American foreign policy be if the Republicans win and John Foster Dulles becomes secretary of state looks farther ahead than it is possible to look now. With so much happening so fast, who knows what policy will be dictated by the situation of 1949? "Adaptability to circumstances," well—says Editor Caleb King, in The Florida Times-Union, "must be the prime requisite of any man filling the office of secretary of state these days. . . . If Mr. Dulles takes over Marshall's job . . . he will not make a success in handling the Russians if he doesn't act positively or negatively as the occasions demands."

Neither perfection nor stability is possible in our present relations with Russia, but life is like that, after all. And our American philosophy is that the play of opposing forces, if held in bounds, is the only sure approach to progress and stimulant to effort. The Lord may have given us Russia to keep us on our toes.

Q—Why is Rome called the Eternal City?

A—It was so called because the Romans themselves thought that no matter what happened in the world, no matter how many other empires might rise and fall, Rome would go on forever.

Dr. Tobias Frowns Upon Color-Tag Organizations

NEW YORK — (NNPA) — Dr. Channing H. Tobias, director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, to the National Association for Colored Graduate Nurses here last Saturday that the group must look forward to the dropping of the word "colored" from their names.

Dr. Tobias was the principal speaker at a luncheon celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the organization and honoring charter members and Lena Horne, stage and movie star. The luncheon was held at the Tavern on the Green restaurant in Central Park, and Miss Horne was honored for her "monumental contributions to culture and to her race."

Dr. Tobias said colored organizations cannot ask for integration and at the same time carry "qualifying words in their names."

Slapping at the Harlem and Lincoln nursing schools, Dr. Tobias said he believed it was "entirely undemocratic and not in keeping with the spirit" of the city that there should be any hospital, particularly a public hospital, that restricts its attendance to colored nurses only.

Later, Mrs. Alida C. Dailey, association president, informed Dr. Tobias that both schools "will accept white girls if any apply for entrance."

Miss Horne told the women she had become interested in colored nurses at the time of the birth of her son in 1938. She said her colored physician had not been allowed to deliver her child and the hospital where she was confined only employed colored women in menial jobs.

MEMBERS HONORED

Charter members honored by the association included Mrs. Sadie Poole, Bomar, Staton Island; Mrs. Edith Carter, Corona, Long Island; Mrs. Eva D. Felton, Wasington; Mrs. Minnie B. Kelly Lee, Norfolk, Virginia; Mrs. Francis A. Robinson Quinn, Portsmouth, Virginia; Mrs. Pattie C. Reeves Holmes, Atlanta; Mrs. Effie B. Watkins, Mrs. Clara Harris, Miss Annie L. Martin and Mrs. Cecelia B. Anderson, all of New York. Miss Carter, the first graduate of Freedman's Hospital nursing school, is 63 years of age.

Also honored was Mrs. Dell Davis of New York City, for her aid to the organization in its early days.

Mrs. Mabel K. Staupers, former executive secretary of the organization, also spoke. Mrs. Estelle Massey Osborne served as toastmaster. The Rev. James Robinson of the Church of the Master pronounced benediction. Charles Simpson, vice president of Liberia, was among the guests.

Brand as Untrue Effort to Stymie 'Respect' Campaign

MOBILE, Ala. — A demand Sunday by militant Negroes that "self-respect" action against alleged anti-Negro policies of a number of Southern newspapers be instituted promptly, brought a vote at a Mobile Citizen's Committee meeting to enlist the support of all leading local clubs by Saturday, and embark on a decided course of procedure next week.

Meanwhile leaders who were said by an editor of a local daily to be opposed to the proposed self-respect campaign, denied that such was true.

They branded as false any report that they spoke against the committee's discussed plans to newspaper officials. The men said the group was misinformed with regard to what transpired in their separate talks with the publisher.

PLEDGES ALL-OUT SUPPORT

They declared that a "self-respect campaign" would have their wholehearted support.

The publisher told Citizens' Committee members Thursday, that the proposed campaign to gain respect for Negro womanhood by urging the prefixing of proper titles to their names, and a similar move against asserted anti-Negro editorial policies, was "explosive."

He said the committee would be held responsible for any racial "strife" that would follow a campaign of that kind. He had read two letters which he said were written by two Negro leaders, Dec. 2, lauding certain policies of the paper.

Old Race Idea Wrong; Authors

NEW YORK--The number of Negroes in the United States who have become distinguished citizens in an unanswerable argument against the theory that Negroes have mutual inferiority, Harry A. and Bonaro Overstreet, psychologists and authors, declared this week.

With A Grain Of Salt

By ARTHUR P. DAVIS

The Truth Of Sociologist's Finding That Race Not Turning White Noted With Regrets

ACCORDING TO Professor William M. Kephart, a University of Pennsylvania sociologist, the Negro group in America stands in no danger of disappearing through the infusion of white blood.

The belief that the Negro group will eventually be absorbed by the white has been held by several eminent scientists, who have considered this process the only real solution to America's race problem. But Professor Kephart, whose article appears in the current American Sociological Review, feels that "miscegenation between Negro and white is not numerically significant" and that, as a consequence, "the amount of white blood being infused in the Negro today is probably negligible insofar as the Negro becoming any lighter is concerned." He also discounts the progressive lightening of the Negro group through the mating of its light-skinned members.

DR. DAVIS

I certainly don't know very much about either sociology or anthropology; therefore all that I can say on the question at issue must be taken with many grains of salt. But from my observation through the years, I am inclined to agree with Professor Kephart.

* * * *

AS I LOOK AT NEGRO student bodies today, I am impressed by the very small number of exceptionally light students one finds. I may be quite wrong, but it seems to me that the percentage of very fair students is lower now than it was when I was in in school twenty years ago. This condition, of course, may be partially explained by the fact that literally thousands — according to one estimate, a hundred thousand Negroes a year are leaving the race via the "passing" route. Such a wholesale desertion naturally takes away from the group much of the white blood it once possessed.

I should add here, however, that the percentage of exceptionally dark students is also relatively small. The Negro group in America tends to be a brown group, ranging in color from mahogany to olive. One could therefore say that our group is getting "lighter" but not "whiter." It is a fine but valid distinction.

But why all this comment on the color of the Negro? Why for instance, did the Associated Press send out a pre-publication release on Kephart's article? (I am quoting above from the AP release, not from the article, which I haven't seen.) Is the Negro's color that important to the American newspaper public?

* * * *

THE ANSWER, AS YOU well know, is, yes. In America, color is tremendously and tragically important. In fact, except for money-making, it is the most important subject in our national thinking.

Kephart's article is therefore both timely and newsworthy; it will strike a responsive and soothing chord in many whites, who for some mystical reason dread, what they call the mongrelization of their race. The fact that all races are mongrel is completely overlooked by these naive and fanatic souls. As the AP release didn't mention, as I did above, the steady stream of "colored" blood flowing into the so-caled white race through "passing". these race purists will be comforted by Kephart's assurance that the Negro will not be absorbed by the white group, that "Mose" will always be "Mose."

On the other hand, there are also racists in our group, Negroes who feel that there is some mystical power in blackness. These persons believe that the Negro has a special artistic and spiri-

tual contribution to make to American culture. That idea, of course, is pure tommyrot, but those who foolishly cling to it will also be comforted by Professor Kephart's findings.

* * * *

BUT I FOR ONE, am frankly sorry that Kephart seems to be right in his observation. It would be better for America if the Negro group were to disappear, absorbed by the white. Since human beings react unfavorably to obvious differences in their brothers, even though those differences are superficial, it is logical to want

a discovery like the one depicted in George Schuyler's novel "Black No More"—a drug which would make all Negroes white overnight. That America needs much more than a good five-cent cigar is my philosophies and theologies combined.

No Superior Races

To the Editor of The News:

I am very sad to know there are still those who think there are "superior" and "inferior" races. Is there any scientific evidence, or are the boastful assertions merely the result of wishful thinking? When asked about this, sometimes evidence of this sort is given: "Look at our civilization. Look at our achievements in arts, science and literature. If our genes were not the best, how could we surpass other nations?"

The first answer to this question is that no one nation has a civilization, an art and a literature and a science which are superior to what other nations have to show. No nation has worked out a civilization all by itself. All the great nations are great borrowers. Scientific discoveries and practical inventions go from one nation to another.

The Germans and Romans are good examples of what I am talking about. When the Romans were enjoying their most flourishing period, the Germans were tribes of wild men. As time went by, they picked up some rudiments of civilization from the Romans. Many centuries passed and they advanced to the point where they began to make contributions to civilization themselves.

I hope you know that intelligence tests have proved there is no superior race. Therefore the Negro race and all other minority races are just as the white or Caucasian race.

603 South 27th Street. W. I. STOVALL.

Racial 'Superiority'

To the Editor of The News:

I ask your leave to reply at some length to a letter by an Auburn student which seemed to "prove" that whites are more intelligent than Negroes. In this letter, facts are so distorted they seem to mean what they do not and cannot mean.

The student's letter is in error in several respects. First of all, there is no agreement among scientsts as to what intelligence is. One noted psychologist has called it "that which intelligence tests measure." This puts the burden of proof on the test itself which is certainly where it belongs when the question of comparing the intelligence of groups arises.

Intelligence is also defined as "flexibility or versatility of response to environmental conditions." It has been shown that in solving problems a human being is usually superior to a dog. His superiority seems to lie largely in the possession of complex language and symbolic tools and the necessary brain tissue to use them. For this reason, most intelligence tests, such as the Army Alpha test, emphasize vocabulary, verbal problems, and arithmetic problems. Simple tests which do not depend on the ability to read and write also have been made. The Army Beta test is of this sort. It appears, however, that scores made on these tests depend to a large extent on schooling. The more schooling a person has, the higher his score is likely to be. Whether the person is intelligent because he has been educated or whether he has been educated because he is intelligent is a question that has not yet been answered. However, when it comes to making distinctions of a few IQ points between large groups, the Army Alpha and Army Beta tests are invalid. They can sift out the feeble-minded and some of the geniuses. They cannot and do not purport to do much more.

The whole question of comparative intelligence has been recast in the past 15 years. Back then we thought that there were only two possible explanations for differences in scores on intelligence tests made by different raicial groups. It was thought by some that the tests showed real differences in intelligence due to racial or hereditary differences. It was thought by others that the Negro or Indian child did not develop his full intelligence because of a poor environment which did not stimulate him to respond to the best of his abilities. Most of the psychologists at the time held to this latter view, but still there was a question.

Now, however, we cannot accept either of these points of view. The studies of Klineberg, Peterson, and other psychologists have presented us with a third possibility and with such a massive amount of evidence that we are almost compelled to accept it. Our third choice is this: All races are not only potentially but actually equal in intelligence, but their mental activity takes different directions so that a test which is fair for one group is not fair for another. We are back to our orginal statement that the burden of proof is not on the group tested, but on the men who made up the test.

The direction which mental activity takes is clearly determined by the morals, values, attitudes, traditions, etc., which a racial group possesses. It is also determined by the types of problems which the surroundings present to the person for solution, and to the grammar and syntax of the language in which he thinks about his problems. In other words: No individual can be judged apart from the group to which he belongs and the surroundings in which he has been placed. Comparisons between racial groups are therefore meaningless unless these facts are taken into account.

Now we can state the conditions for an actual, valid, and fair test of the differences between racial groups. We can make a selection of a group from the Negro race which is in every necessary respect equal in social and economic standing, cultural level, and education to a white group. We must make certain at the same time that environment, traditions, and values are practically identical for both groups. Then we can test the groups and compare the results. It is obvious that this matching can be done only approximately. But it has been done in the studies referred to above, and no significant differences in intelligence appear.

To quote Gardner Murphy, who is one of America's great psychologists, "We regard it as practically certain that there is no necessary biological relation between the criteria of race and the capacity for intellectual growth."

Zoologists give to men the title Homo sapiens, "man the intelligent," and sometimes we wonder how well he deserves it. But as a great American anthropologist once wrote: "What counts is not the problematic difference in racial ability, but the disability of the genus Homo, however sapiens, to think intelligently and without prejudice in this field, so heavily charged with emotion, vanity, special pleading, and still lowlier affects."

RICHARD BLANTON.

1233 Graymont Avenue, West.

Citizens Object To 'Niggerhead' Oysters

MINNEAPOLIS.—(ANP)- A distaste for oysters has grown in the "Twin Cites" recently because of the "Niggerhead" brand of oysters in the can here.

Because of the objections of many citizens, this brand of canned oysters, sent out from the Aughinbaugh canneries in Biloxi, Miss., has been taken off the shelves of leading grocers in this area.

Objections to this brand is caused particularly by the label which pictures a thick, red-lipped Negro with wooly hair and his big mouth wide open swallowing a huge oyster. The producing firm has been in business 60 years.

Psychologist Finds Race Present At Highest Intelligence Level

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)— The brightest American Negroes equal the brightest whites in intelligence according to Dr. Martin D. Jenkins of Howard university in an article appearing in the May issue of Scientific Monthly, official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of science.

Dr. Jenkins, an authority in the field of educational psychology, holds that preoccupation with the significance at the low average performance of Negro groups on intelligence tests has served to divert attention from what is theoretically and practically an equally important matter, the significance of the extreme upper deviates in intelligence.

During the past 14 years he has examined the intelligence test performance of Negro children throughout the country. He cites studies which show that in many communities there are Negro children who test at the level attained by the highest one percent of white children. Of 22,301 subjects, located chiefly in northern urban communities, 0.3 percent scored at IQ 140 and above, and fully one percent at IQ 130 or above. These percentages are similar to those obtained from normal population of American school children.

Especial stress is placed on the significance of the cases of Negro children who score IQ 160. Terming these children "among the very brightest in America", Dr. Jenkins cites the cases of 18 Negro children whose IQ ranges from 160 to 200, and who manifest the same characteristics as do other very high IQ children. Two of the subjects were regularly enrolled university students at age 13 and both earned the baccalaureate degree at 16 after having been elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society. Interestingly enough, no southern Negro child testing at this high level has been identified; all the subjects were found in northern and border state cities.

Amerinds Not Negroid, Scientist Says

Albuquerque, N. M. (AP)—The American Indian, contrary to widespread scientific belief, inherited no Negroid blood, Dr. Joseph B. Birdsell, an anthropologist who made an extended study of racial characteristics in Australia, reports.

The Red Man of this Continent probably descended from a Mongoloid people and the remnants of an archaic white race resembling the modern hairy Ainu of northern Japan, Dr. Birdsell told the American Anthropological Association.

This conclusion was based on examination of types in Australia and a postulation of the movement of peoples from Asia and Europe to Australia and the new world.

Dr. Birdsell said it was true that some Mongoloid peoples look like Negroids but that there was no genetic evidence in that direction.

He theorized that the Negroid and Negrito peoples spreading outward from Asia gradually worked their way southward and eastward to Australia and southwestern Pacific Islands, and that the Ainu-Mongoloids went northward, finally crossing the Bering Strait to the new world.